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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns deliberate and dastardly attack on Bangladeshi peace-keepers in Velika Kladusa yesterday; endorses UNPROFOR protest to Abdic forces and Serb authorities.

+ Bangladesh says attack on its troops calls sanctity of safe areas and credibility of Security Council resolutions into question; urges immediate and forthright action to deter continuing violations.

+ UNHCR maintains food stocks in Sarajevo by overland route, despite closure of airport; United Nations agencies report major humanitarian deliveries in Afghanistan.

+ Secretary-General, in message to Asia-Africa Forum, says momentum generated by Tokyo Conference on African Development must not be lost.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee approves drafts on United Nations electoral assistance, and on need to protect family unity of undocumented migrants.

+ General Committee recommends General Assembly include items on United Nations cooperation with Caribbean Community and Namibia scholarship programme in current agenda.

+ Crown Prince of Thailand opens NGO Forum on Drug Demand Reduction in Bangkok; UNDCP Executive Director says drug menace threatens all regions of world.

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The Security Council has strongly condemned yesterday's deliberate attack on Bangladeshi United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in Velika Kladusa, in the Bihac region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The peace-keepers were travelling in an armoured personnel carrier, unmistakably carrying clear United Nations markings, which was hit by a wire guided anti-tank missile. Five Bangladeshi troops were injured in the attack, and one later died of his wounds.

For information media—not an official record

In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), the Council expressed profound regret at the casualties suffered as a result of the "unprovoked and dastardly attack." It conveyed its deep condolences to the Government of Bangladesh, as well as to the families of the peace-keepers.

The Council endorsed the protest that UNPROFOR had made to the forces loyal to Fikret Abdic and to the local Serb authorities in Knin, and its warning to the authorities in Pale. Stressing its outrage at the attack, the Council demanded that such incidents did not recur. It warned the perpetrators that their heinous act of violence carried corresponding individual responsibility.

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Bangladesh has said that yesterday's attack on its peace-keepers in Velika Kladusa calls into question the sanctity of the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the credibility of relevant Security Council resolutions. In a letter to the President of the Council dated 12 December, Bangladesh urged that immediate and forthright measures be taken to deter continuing violations of safe area provisions. Restrictions on the freedom of movement and dire threats to the safety of UNPROFOR personnel must also be deterred, it said.

The Council must take forth-right and preventive action, especially the use of air power, to halt artillery, mortar and tank attacks, Bangladesh stressed. Such action was fully justified by existing United Nations mandates, particularly as it appeared that the peace-keepers had been deliberately targeted yesterday.

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Despite the closure of Sarajevo airport three weeks ago, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has maintained its food stocks in the city by the overland route, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that three convoys had reached the Bosnian capital today, and expressed confidence that the UNHCR would be able to continue feeding the civilian population there.

Meanwhile in Afghanistan, United Nations agencies succeeded in getting more than 100 truck-loads of humanitarian aid into Kabul last week. This week, a UNHCR convoy carrying relief supplies reached the town of Kunduz, which houses refugees from Tajikistan, as well as Afghan displaced persons. The spokesman noted that United Nations convoys had been unable to reach Kunduz for 22 months, and expressed hope that the latest news heralded the opening of the area to humanitarian agencies.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, hosted by Japan last year, was an important milestone in international cooperation for development, and

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that the momentum it had generated must not be lost. He made that comment in a message to the Asia-Africa Forum, which is being held this week in Bandung, Indonesia.

The Secretary-General welcomed the new Asia-Africa Forum initiative, which was designed to stimulate cooperation between Asian and African countries, and serve as a launching pad for generating concrete and operational programmes. He said that Africa had much to learn from the development experiences of Asia, and that there was much that the world could learn from Africa's experiences.

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The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today approved a draft resolution providing guidance for United Nations electoral assistance activities, by 142 votes in favour to none against, with 14 abstentions. The Committee also approved four drafts on the advancement of women and five on human rights questions, without a vote.

Yesterday, the Committee approved a draft resolution emphasizing the vital importance of family reunification, and the need to promote its integration into national laws in order to protect the family unity of undocumented migrants. It took that action by 78 votes in favour to 4 against (Australia, Israel, United Kingdom, United States), with 65 abstentions. The Committee approved a total of four drafts on the advancement of women and eight on human rights questions yesterday.

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The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include in its current agenda a new item on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community. It said the item should be considered directly in plenary session. The Committee also recommended inclusion of an item entitled "United Nations Fund for Namibia: scholarship programme for Namibia", to be considered in plenary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the United States representative questioned the Committee's practice of including additional agenda items under rule 15 of the Assembly's rules of procedure. That rule makes provisions for inclusion of items of "an important and urgent character" during the course of an Assembly session. Noting that rule 15 had been designed to address items that could not be raised prior to the commencement of an Assembly session, or postponed to the next session, he called for a more orderly usage of the rule and a more timely introduction of new items.

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The NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction today held its first plenary meeting in Bangkok. Opening the Forum yesterday, Crown Prince Maha

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Vajiralongkorn of Thailand called drug addiction a "major problem of these days, not only from the standpoint of the addict's health but also in terms of social welfare and national security".

Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) stressed the importance of addressing the "escalating drug menace that today threatens all regions of the world". While the Forum was not an official United Nations conference, the UNDCP supported it because of the vital role non-governmental organizations played in the fight against drugs.

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